A WALKING TOUR OF SOME HISTORIC SITES

Near Downtown Astoria

Oldtimers in Astoria say the longer they live here, the more they want to stay, and so they have never left. By their staying, they build continuity and stability into their hometown.

Many native sons and daughters achieve fame and fortune in distant places, but in their mellowing years, they fondly remember Astoria, and they return. By their returning, they add their matured wisdom to the enrichment of this unique town on the edge of the continent. Time, they say, has helped them appreciate Astoria.

To help you to take time to savor the substance of history is the purpose of this walking tour, which covers only a small portion of one of the oldest residential areas of town.

Astoria, the birthplace of the Northwest, had its beginning in 1811. In that year, fur traders commissioned by John Jacob Astor, sailed from New York harbor, around Cape Horn, along the Pacific coast, and entered the Columbia River only nineteen years after Captain Robert Gray in his small ship, the Columbia, discovered its entrance.

Now, by walking along the early streets and standing on historic ground, individuals or entire families can take time to observe the architectural details of century-old homes and recreate the scenes of bygone days.

Many other areas of the city have structures of comparable age and interest, but this route has been chosen because of its central location and because it links two of Astoria's major points of historical importance. Thus the walking tour begins at the Clatsop County Historical Museum, often referred to as the Flavel Mansion, and ends at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, both nationally recognized historic centers.

Until Astoria's disastrous fire of 1922, Franklin Avenue, which comprises most of the walking tour, was the first solid street in town, edged with mudflats and the lapping of tidewater at its lower points. Between Franklin and the river channel were plank streets and board walks with business establishments built on piling. In the reconstruction after the fire, the river was pushed back to its present location by the filling of the tideflats.

Locations marked with an asterisk (*) on the tour guide indicate buildings displaying a plaque awarded by the Oregon Historical Landmarks Committee for authentic maintenance or restoration of the original buildings. Many other structures in town are equally worthy, but their owners have not offered them for the consideration of the Committee.

Now you are invited to travel the route indicated or any portion of it which your time and inclinations allow. Its total length is 1.2 miles. We hope you enjoy your adventure into history.

Guide for the Walking Tour

(Dates indicate the year the structure was built.
Family names are those of the original residents.)

1. 441 Eighth Street; 1883: The Clatsop County Historical Museum, also known as the Flavel Mansion. The house, designed by a San Francisco architect, was built for Captain George C. Flavel and his wife, the former Mary Christina Boelling. It is recognized as one of the most outstanding examples of Victorian architecture in Oregon. From its fourth-story cupola, Captain Flavel, sea captain, master of his own sailing fleet, and first licensed bar pilot, could watch his ships cross the Columbia bar. President Rutherford B. Hayes was once a guest here.

2. *765 Exchange Avenue; (S.W. corner of Eighth and Exchange); 1863; Conrad Boelling residence. The Boellings came from Philadelphia by covered wagon in 1846. He established a sawmill that year, opened Astoria's first hotel in 1848, was active in the organization of local government, and served as county treasurer for many years. Daughter Mary Christina became Mrs. George Flavel. Daughters Lisa and Ellen taught Astoria's first school.

3. *788 Franklin Avenue; (corner of Eighth and Franklin); 1884; Home of Marshall J. Kinney built on land purchased from Conrad Boelling. Kinney established one of Astoria's first fish canneries. Later the house became the home of Dr. A.A. Finch, often referred to as a "fine baby doctor."

4. 584 Eighth Street; 1885; Home of Samuel Elmore, community leader and owner of Elmore's salmon cannery. Later he and Marshall Kinney and others merged their operations into the Columbia River Packers Association.

Off the tour route, one block up the hill, is another home of historic interest. The house at 818 Grand Avenue was built in 1885 by Conrad Boelling for his grandson, George Flavel, Jr. who married Wenona Callender, daughter of M.P. Callender. Young Flavel worked with his father and father-in-law in their expansive shipping interests.

Albert Brumberg home - lived there many years still there

5. 960 Franklin Avenue; 1901; House built by L.A. Larson, painting contractor, also talented organist and vocalist. He organized the Laerkin Male Chorus, a Scandanavian singing society, branches of which are still active in Portland and Seattle.

6. 987 Franklin Avenue; 1870; Built by the McCloskey family, carpenters and later electricians. The house next door, up the hill, was their more recent home.

7. 618 Tenth Street (corner of Tenth and Franklin); 1900; Home of Dr. Wm. C. Logan, mayor of Astoria from 1939 to 1942. Son Lorenz Logan became New York attorney, whose will contains a provisional bequest to the Astor Library.

8. 1010 Franklin Avenue; 1920; This house was built by Walter Kallunki, owner of Kallunki's Dry Goods Store on Bond Street. When the area was threatened by the big mudslide of 1954, the house was moved to its present location.

9. 1030 Franklin Avenue; 1909; Francis Apartments built by Louis Franetovich, a Slavonian immigrant and wealthy restauranteur. Named for his daughter, Frances Franetovich, a well-known opera singer, the structure was considered the most elite apartment house in Astoria.

10. 1076 Franklin Avenue; 1916; First United Methodist Church established in Astoria in 1840 when pioneer missionary, Jason Lee, appointed the first minister to the charge. Cornerstone of the present building was laid October 16, 1916. Parking lot across the street was the site of early-day Hotel Tyee, later named the Arlington.

11. 1140 Franklin Avenue; 1900; Built by Ferdinand Fisher, shipbuilder and founder of Fisher hardware and marine supply company, for his son, Earl. House later became music studio.

> The Fisher home, now an apartment house, 687 Twelfth Street, one block south, was built in 1895 by two brothers, Augustus C. Fisher and Ferdinand Fisher, who established Fisher Brothers ship chandlery, hardware, and grocery store. Though they sold it in 1903, the present business continues to bear the Fisher name. The Fishers owned the first automobile in Astoria.

12. 591 Twelfth Street (N.W. corner of Franklin and Twelfth); 1898; Home of the Kirchoff family, grandparents of Dr. Dorothy Johanson, professor emeritus of Reed College, Portland, and widely known author and historian. Also the home of the aunt of Patricia Beatty, well-known author of children's books, including Hail Columbia, locale of which is early Astoria. The building later became YWCA headquarters; is now education unit of the adjoining Zion Lutheran Church.

13. 1229 Franklin Avenue; 1870; Built by John Quincy Adams Bowlby, long-time Astoria attorney.

14. 1243 Franklin Avenue; 1872; Built by Judge Bowlby for his daughter, Violet. Later the home of County Judge T. S. Cornelius, whose blind son operated a broom shop. During his tenure of office, the Judge initiated the establishment of Bradley State Park on Highway 30.

15. 1263 Franklin Avenue; 1956; The parsonage of the Zion Lutheran Church; built on the site of the former Stevens home. (See item 25)

16. 1278 Franklin Avenue; 1898; Remodeled and extended in 1913 by Captain Peter Jordan for his daughter Ada and her husband, Henry Skibbe, son of Captain Max Skibbe.

17. 1294 Franklin Avenue; 1892; Built by Will Joplin, a member of the Joplin family who founded Joplin, Missouri. Later became the home of Captain Peter Jordan, who with Melville Calender and Captain Skibbe founded the Calender Navigation Company, forerunner of the Knappton Towboat Company.

    Notice the contours of bricks showing beneath the blacktopping of the street on this incline. Tradition reports that traffic tempers flared when automobiles began to compete with horse-drawn vehicles for right-of-way on the finely graveled streets. The city fathers provided the diplomatic solution; they decreed that a brick-paved strip should be laid down the center of the street where the horses could get their footing, leaving the paved strip on either side for the cars. Franklin Avenue was thus paved in 1916.

18. 1289 Franklin Avenue; 1910; The home of Archibald McLean, deputy sheriff and later shoe store owner. Was restored by the Steve Miller family when they purchased the house in 1966.

19. 1320 Franklin Avenue; 1909; Dr. Alfred C. Kinney, dentist, started the construction of this building planning to use the first floor for offices and the upper floors for the family residence; but due to a series of misfortunes, he was unable to complete it. The building stood unfinished, inhabited only by myriads of pigeons, until 1917 when three local business-men converted it into apartments.

20. 1370 Franklin Avenue; 1892; Built for the John P. Dickinson family from Virginia. Dickinson became deputy county clerk. Daughter Helen was a long-time first grade teacher in Astoria. Another daughter was the wife of Dr. Alfred C. Kinney. Daughter Fanny became Mrs. Brenham VanDusen.

21. 1313 Franklin Avenue; 1923; Built by Charles Brown after he lost his fortune in the catastrophic Astoria fire of 1922. He and his wife operated a small grocery store here.

22. *1337 Franklin Avenue; 1854; The oldest house in Astoria. River pilot Captain Hiram Brown built the west portion of this home in East Astoria (Adairville) in 1854. In 1865, he barged the house down the river to Twelfth and Franklin which was then a backwater of the Columbia, and had it drawn on log rollers by oxen to its present location where it was attached to the east portion of the house, built earlier. Upon the death of Captain Brown in 1892, his son Charles and family occupied the house. Later it became the Chisholm boarding house. After several years of vacancy, the house was authentically restored in 1964.

23. *1393 Franklin Avenue; 1879; Built by Captain Hiram Brown as a wedding gift to his daughter Annie when she married Judge Charles H. Page. Judge Page served as mayor of Astoria 1882-1890. Later it became the home of building contractor Charles Houston, who remodeled the house in 1900, detaching the west wing and moving it to the south end of the lot where it still stands as a separate dwelling (637 Fourteenth). The house was the location of the Astoria Business College 1935-41, then during World War II was made into apartments. After several later years of disuse, it was restored in 1966-67. Vera Gault home

24. 1388 Franklin Avenue; 1868; The second home of Charles Stevens who brought his family to Astoria in 1861. (See item 15) Mrs. Stevens and her sister, Myra Ziegler, operated a boarding house. A daughter, Esther, became Mrs. Hiram Brown. (In 1880, Captain Hiram Brown built the house north of the Stevens house, 577 Fourteenth, for his daughter, Ida Mitchell.)

25. 1410 Franklin Avenue; 1874; George Warren, wife Frances Stevens, had started to build this house when he was killed in a logging accident. In 1876, the widow married I. W. Case, president of the I. W. Case Bank, who completed the building, where they lived for many years. Later, it became the home of Dr. R. J. Pilkington, U. S. Marine doctor who operated the medical station for service to all ships. Still later, it became an antique shop, the home of an artist, and the home of the high school principal.

26. 636 Fourteenth Street (S.E. corner of Fourteenth and Franklin); 1895; Built by Frank Patton, Astoria banker. Later became the convent for Holy Names Sisters operating Star of the Sea school. In 1973, it was transferred to local agencies to become the Clatsop County Child Care Center.

27. 627 Fifteenth Street (S.W. corner of Fifteenth and Franklin); 1903; Second home of George Flavel, son of Captain Flavel, and his wife, Wenona Callender. Now occupied by the fourth generation of the Captain Flavel family.

28. 591 Fifteenth Street (N.W. corner of Fifteenth and Franklin); 1910; The house was built for Herman Zaph, pioneer furniture dealer, who later

sold it to George Mice. In 1915, Alex Karsun, pioneer clothier, purchased it for his family home. Since that time, the residence has been occupied by his descendents.

29. 1510 Franklin Avenue; 1914; Was built for Chris Schmidt, cannery owner who also had fish canneries in New York City and Hamburg, Germany. In 1937, the place was purchased by Albert E. Engbretson, director, Oregon State University Extension Service, developer of seed grasses, and owner of wholesale seed company. Only the two owners have resided here.

30. 1526 Franklin Avenue; 1920; Home of Dr. Charles W. Barr, dentist. He later left Astoria to practice in Honolulu. Son Charles became a physician. He was killed in an auto accident while making a night call.

31. 1546 Franklin Avenue; 1870; Home of the Nelson family. He was a cannery executive. She was the daughter of Captain Gust Holmes. The place was purchased in 1930 by P. O. Stacy, banker.

32. *1555 Franklin Avenue; 1885; Grace Episcopal Church, the oldest church building in Astoria in continuous use. The rectory was built in 1920.

33. 1583 Franklin Avenue; 1868; Built by Captain John Lawler, marine engineer. Wife Margaret was great-aunt of Marshall Leathers, local financier.

34. 1589 Franklin Avenue; 1908; Built for Henry Sherman and wife Lottie Wirt, pioneer Clatsop Plains family. Sherman, born in Prussia, owned the Sherman Transfer stables located on Commercial between Ninth and Tenth Streets where he kept an elegant assortment of horses and carriages for hire.

35. 1572 Franklin Avenue; 1922; the Masonic Temple was built on the site of the Colonel ~~Edward~~ James Taylor mansion which was moved to the back of the lot and turned to face Exchange Avenue, where it is now part of the Chalet Apartments. The Masonic Lodge was organized in Astoria in 1895; the Eastern Star in 1907.

36. Corner of Sixteenth and Franklin, Trinity Lutheran Church; The education wing is the former home of Judge Frank Taylor, son of Col. James Taylor. Built about 1885, it became a part of the Holy Names Convent and Academy in 1902. The academy was destroyed by fire ~~in~~ feb. 1923. The Trinity Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America, was built in this location with the first service being held on Christmas Day 1938.

37. 1642 Franklin Avenue; Circa 1900; Trinity Lutheran Church parsonage. Formerly the home of James Lovell, Lovell's iron works.

38. 1681 Franklin Avenue; 1870; Built for Brenham VanDusen, son of Adam VanDusen whose family home was located on the present site of the Columbia Hospital. The fourth generation of the family now operates the insurance agency founded by Adam VanDusen.

39. 1682 Franklin Avenue; ?

40. *690 Seventeenth Street; 1883; Built for Martin Foard, early day merchant and co-owner of Foard and Stokes mercantile and furniture store.

41. 1711 Grand Avenue; 1890; Home of George W. Sanborn, cannery owner and owner of the Sanborn cutting plant where in 1911 he worked with American Can Company to install the first sanitary can-packing machinery in the salmon industry.

42. *1687 Grand Avenue; 1880; The home of John Henry Dix Gray, son of W. H. Gray who came to Oregon in 1836 with pioneer missionary, Dr. Marcus Whitman. J. H. D. Gray was born in Lapwai, Idaho, the first white boy born west of the Rockies. He moved with his family to Clatsop Plains; later became river boat captain, state senator, and county judge. He died in this house in 1902. The house, constructed largely of cedar, remains as it was built except for the addition of the porch. Ed Harvey home

43. 1661 Grand Avenue; ~~1884~~ 1882; The home of Albert W. Ferguson, pioneer architect and builder who with his son, James E., constructed some of the outstanding structures in Astoria, including the Gray house next door. A son, Fidello W., was the first printer for the Astorian, then a tri-weekly publication. There were two other sons, Edward Z. and Hope, and daughter, Ada.

44. 1643 Grand Avenue; 1893; The John Griffin home. His wife, Ada, was the only daughter of A. W. Ferguson. Griffin owned and operated a large bookstore at 11th and Commercial. Later, with brother-in-law, Edward Ferguson, he established the Astoria Abstract Office, forerunner of the present Pioneer Title Company. Elegantly restored in 1973 by new owner, Dr. Gary M. Boelling.

45. 1625 Grand Avenue; 1905; Home of E. P. Noonan, insurance man. About 1915, the house was sold to Albin W. Norblad, Astoria attorney and state senator who became governor of Oregon in 1929. In 1919, he introduced legislation creating the Oregon Coast highway. His son. A. Walter Norblad, was U.S. Congressman from Oregon's first district from 1946 until his death in 1965.

46. 1607 Grand Avenue; ? ; Was started as a home for the Catholic Holy Names Sisters but was completed as a residence for Frank Potter, logging operator.

47. 1588 Grand Avenue; 1897; The P.A. Stokes home. Stokes was a partner with Martin Foard in the Foard & Stokes mercantile establishment. He was great-uncle of Ted Stokes, local author. The house was also the long-time home of S.S. Gordon, president and manager of the First National Bank.

48. 1576 Grand Avenue; 1894; The Nat Tallant home. He operated receiving stations for the salmon canneries. The house is now an apartment house occupied chiefly by college students.

49. 1465 Grand Avenue; 1902; St. Mary's Catholic Church: Father DeMers established a Catholic mission in Astoria in 1840. In 1874, Father Blanchet, then Archbishop, built the first church, which was demolished for the present structure, dedicated in 1903. The bell tower was a landmark for sailing ships which entered the Columbia as late as 1941, when the ~~X~~Kango sailed out of port loaded with lumber ~~headed~~ for Australia. The rectory between the church and Star of the Sea school was built in 1904.

> 836 Fifteenth Street; 1883; One-half block up Fifteenth Street, but off the tour route, is the fine old house built by Peter Cherry, British vice-consul when Astoria was a port of entry. Later he and his four sons established extensive shipping interests. Mrs. Cherry was a Boelling, ~~sister~~ niece of Mrs. George Flavel. After years of neglect, the structure was elegantly restored in 1967.

50. 698 Fifteenth Street; circa ~~1865~~ 80; The ~~first~~ second rectory of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the long-time residence of Father Dieleman, pastor of the church from 1879-1900. The first rectory is located in the block above, 792 Fifteenth Street.

51. 695, 685, 675, 665, 659 Fifteenth Street and 1472 Grand Avenue; Circa 1900; The six houses in this area were built for investment by Alexandre Gilbert who had large real estate holdings in both Seaside and Astoria. He was a French immigrant who established a wholesale and retail liquor business in Astoria in 1882. He served as French consul and became the first treasurer of the Port of Astoria. He moved his family to Seaside in 1898 where he became mayor and did much to develop Seaside as a resort town.

52. Fifteenth Avenue between Franklin and Exchange; Site of the first United States post office west of the Rockies. In 1843, John H. Shively, first postmaster, operated the post office in his home. Postal rates were forty cents per letter from Oregon Territory to "the States". The house, after a long period of vacancy, was demolished in the early 1900's.

53. Fifteenth and Exchange; 1811; Site of Fort Astoria. Astoria began when John Jacob Astor's ship, the Tonquin, dropped anchor on April 14, 1811, and crewmen started the construction of Fort Astoria on what was then the bank of the Columbia. Log footings of the original buildings were unearthed in 1931 during excavation for the west wing of the hospital. Others were found at the present street intersection. The park area and replica of one of the Fort's bastions were developed in 1956.

54. Fifteenth Street and Exchange Avenue: The first hospital structure located on this site was built in 1880 by Providence Sisters of Charity. The east wing of the present structure was built in 1905, miraculously escaping the 1922 fire. The newer wing was constructed in 1931. The facility was known for years as St. Mary's Hospital. In 1970, it merged with Columbia Hospital taking the name of Columbia Memorial Hospital.

55. Southeast corner, Fifteenth and Exchange: This is the site of the Wells Fargo stagecoach station, located strategically between the post office and Fort Astoria.

56. 1543 Exchange Avenue; circa 1880; The front portion of the Chalet Apartments is the former Colonel James Taylor mansion moved from the present site of the Masonic Temple (See item 33). The back portion is the former home of August Shamburger, brewer. The Taylor house was once one of Astoria's finest homes.

57. 1585 Exchange Avenue; circa 1865; Captain John Merriman purchased the land from Colonel James Taylor and built this house which, though an apartment house for many years, still has its carved walnut staircase and three marble fireplaces. Later it was purchased by John Devlin, bookkeeper for Humes Brothers cannery. Soon he established his own cannery over the Astoria waterfront. Old records say that Devlin's cannery workers carried revolvers going to and from work to protect themselves from being shanghaied by runners from sailing ships who would grab men from the woods, farms, and off streets to deliver to their captains for a fee. After ownership by the Devlins, the place became a mortuary, later an apartment house.

58. Northeast corner, Sixteenth and Exchange; 1905; On July 4, 1905, this structure was dedicated as Astoria City Hall. It also housed the city library. Later, it became USO headquarters serving the thousands of military men stationed at army, navy, airforce, and coast guard stations in and near Astoria during wartime. In 1962, a group of citizens interested in preserving the rich nautical history of the area established the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Under the direction of Rolf Kelp, nationally recognized artist and

historian, the museum is widely acclaimed as one of the most outstanding of its kind. One of its most important artifacts is the Lightship Columbia Rediviva, moored at the foot of Seventeenth Street where a new waterfront park is under construction. The Lightship Columbia was built in Camden, N.J. in 1907, and came around the Horn in 1909 to serve as lightship at the mouth of the Columbia River. Both the Museum and the Lightship are open to the public.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

This ends your walking tour of one of the old sections of Astoria. A more complete description of the houses of the area is being published in brochures by the Clatsop County Historical Society and will be available to visitors at the museums, the public library, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Three other homes in Astoria, located away from this Walking Tour route, have been awarded historic plaques by the Landmarks ~~Commission~~ committee:

469 Bond Street; 1863: The Hobson house is Astoria's oldest residence to remain in continuous family ownership. The house, built entirely of Port Orford cedar, was the home of John Hobson, pioneer from England in 1843 who came west with the "Great Migration" wagon train led by Marcus Whitman and Jessee Applegate.

3652 Duane Avenue; 1888: The Benjamin Young house is the residence of third and fourth generations of the Young family with many original furnishings still in use and grounds and carriage house maintained in original style. Benjamin Young, early-day salmon packer, built his home on what was then the bank of the Columbia river. It is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture.

682 Thirty-fourth Street; 1890: Built by Gust Holmes, fish cannery owner, on what was then known as Holmes Hill. The house continued in family ownership until 1960, when it was purchased and restored by Captain Ray Collins, bar pilot.